

Amendment to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 14 as follows:

Base 24 includes an outer annular ridge 28 which protrudes away from top 22, outer ridge 28 defining a plane 30 (refer to FIG. 7) upon which container 20 may rest. Base 24 also includes a centrally located convex dome (rounded bulge) 32 which is connected to outer ridge 28 so that dome 32 is disposed within outer ridge 28. The dome 32 has a diameter of at least about 25% of the diameter of the outer ridge diameter as shown in, for example, Figs. 7 and 9. Dome 32 is inverted and protrudes away from top 22. Dome 32 has a central apex 34 which resides between top 22 and plane 30. That is, apex 34 resides above plane 30 when container 20 is placed upon a support surface. As such, dome 32 will not cause instability when the base 24 of container 20 is placed upon a support surface. In an embodiment of the invention, the preform shape of a core 501 of an injecting mold forms dome 32. Then when container 20 is subjected to a hot fill operation (see below and FIGS. 9 and 10), dome 32 tends to assume its original shape as defined by the preform core. Base 24 also includes a flexible annular joint connecting outer ridge 28 and dome 32, the annular joint forming an annular inner ridge 36 which protrudes toward top 22.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 19 as follows:

FIG. 10 is an enlarged cross sectional view showing sealed container 20 cooling. Dome 32 on the base 24 of container 20 moves toward top 22 of container 20 in response to the reduced volume of gas 600 as container 20 cools. The original position of dome 32 is shown by the dashed line which demonstrates the dome remains protruding away from the top.